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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions In Central Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.4/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 8, 9, 12 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.4/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support for the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa;

(b) Request the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the necessary support to the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in making operational the early warning mechanism which they have just established;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

(d) Also request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

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B. Relationship of the request to the programme of work

2. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 9, 12 and 13 of the draft resolution are associated with programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised, and section 2B, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

3. The request contained in operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution is associated with programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 and the related activities are provided for under section 22 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

4. Implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 12 and 13 of the draft resolution, regarding provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and the submission of a report to the General Assembly, would be carried out within resources provided under section 2B of the regular budget for the biennium 1998–1999. The provision contained therein covers substantive servicing of four plenary sessions of the Committee during the biennium.

5. The activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, including those related to the establishment of an early warning mechanism for Central Africa, as referred to in operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, are expected to be funded from voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

6. It is the intention of the Secretary-General to respond to operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution concerning support for the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa, through the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Modalities for the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa are currently under discussion; activities in connection therewith would be carried out subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources in the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

D. Modifications required in the programme of work for 1998-1999

7. Modifications would not be required to programme 26, Disarmament and programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 or to sections 2B and 22 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

E. Potential for absorption

8. The programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 would continue to provide for substantive servicing of two annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee. Activities referred to in operative paragraphs 8 and 9 of the draft resolution would be financed by extrabudgetary resources. Additional requirements are therefore not expected to arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

F. Indication of additional requirements

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.4/Rev.1, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.